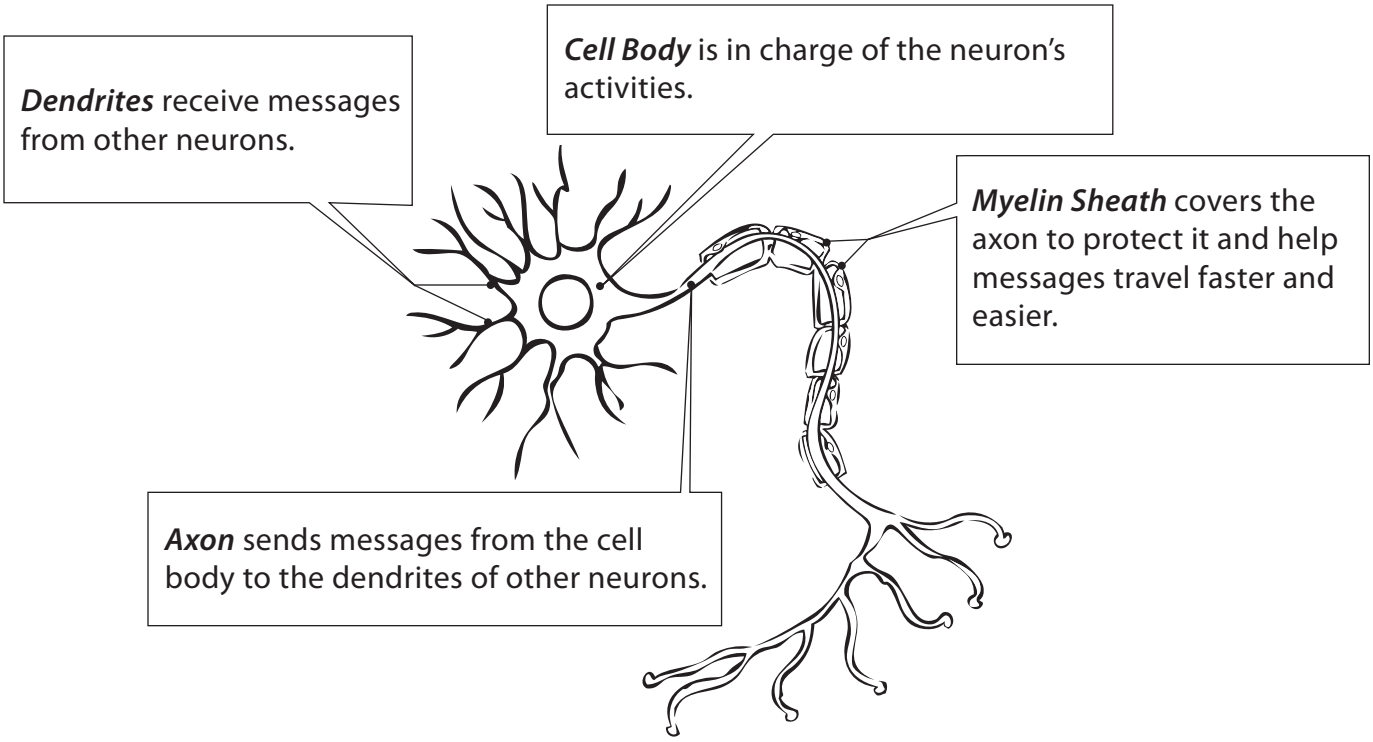
Neurotransmission Fact Sheet

The brain and nervous system are made of billions of nerve cells, called neurons. Neurons have three main parts: cell body, dendrites, and axon. The axon is covered by the myelin sheath.



The transfer of information between neurons is called *neurotransmission.*

This is how neurotransmission works:

1. A message travels from the dendrites through the cell body and to the end of the axon.
2. The message causes the chemicals, called neurotransmitters, to be released from the end of the axon into the synapse. The neurotransmitters carry the message with them into the synapse. The synapse is the space between the axon of one neuron and the dendrites of another neuron.
3. The neurotransmitters then travel across the synapse to special places on the dendrites of the next neuron, called receptors. The neurotransmitters fit into the receptors like keys in locks.
4. Once the neurotransmitter has attached to the receptors of the second neuron, the message is passed on.
5. The neurotransmitters are released from the receptors and are either broken down or go back into the axon of the first neuron.

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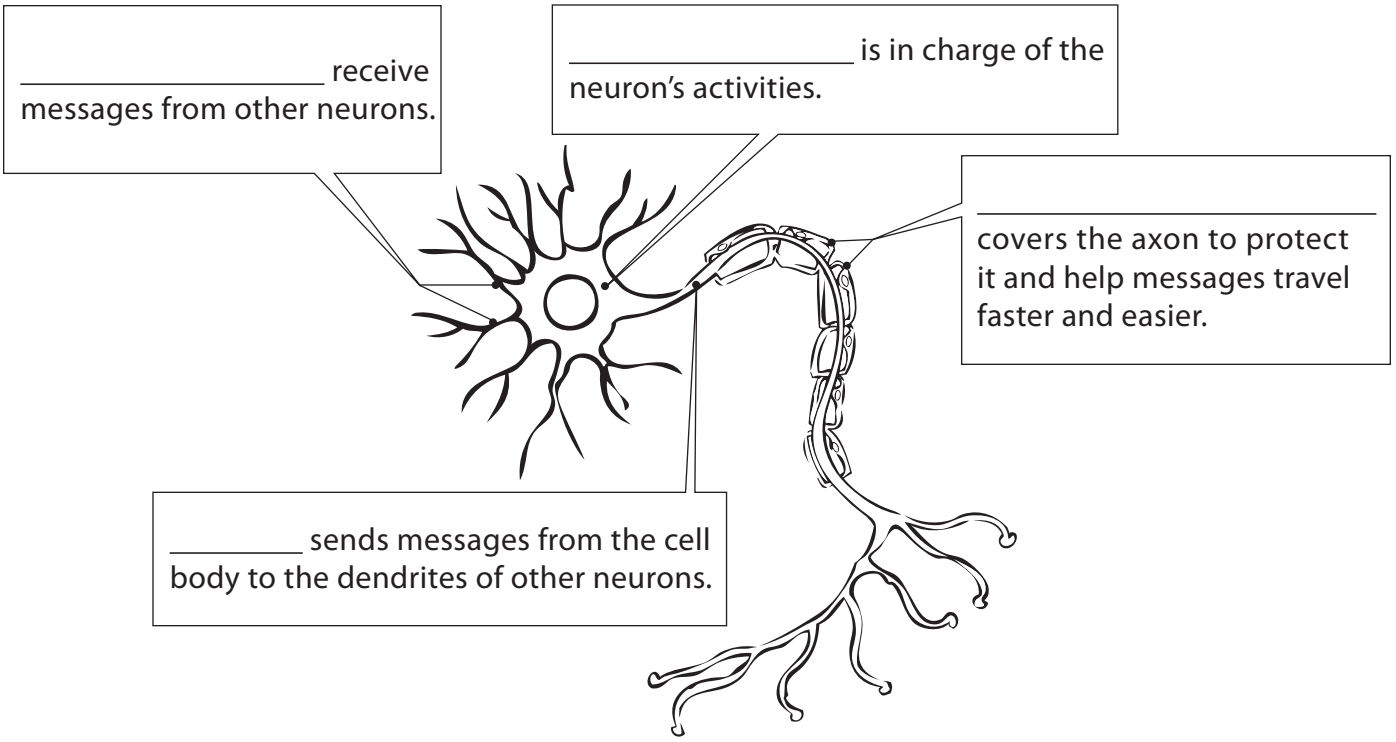

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